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WCC General Secretary Reports to Central Committee

(Nyborg, Denmark) - To interpret the recent meeting between representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Moscow Patriarchate "primarily in political terms" is "to miss its real importance", Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC general secretary, reported to the council's Central Committee at its opening session on August 21 in Nyborg, Denmark. The meeting between the two groups was held August 7-9 in Utrecht, Holland (see EPS No. 32).

The sessions between the two groups of "churchmen were "in the realm of church relationships and church history", Dr. Visser 't Hooft said, but pointed out that "it is true that it has its very real political aspect in that we cannot forget the international situation in such a meeting". However, the general secretary assured the council's policy-making committee that "we have indeed tried to deal responsibly with the problems arising out of that situation".

More than 130 persons attended the annual meeting in Nyborg which adjourns today (August 29). Seventy-two committee members and substitutes have been present, joined by fraternal delegates, officers of other international church groups and national Christian councils and observers.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reminded the committee that "the Church of Russia has never participated in the life of the ecumenical movement, its leaders have yet to discover that movement. We have to remember how little the churches in other countries know about the real life of the churches in Russia. We must remember that the working out of positive relationships between the World Council of Churches and the Orthodox Church in Russia can also open the door for relationships between the WCC and

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other churches in Soviet Russia. We must specially remember that the needed confrontation and spiritual encounter of Eastern and Western Christianity can only take place in an adequate way if the great tradition of Russian Orthodoxy can become vocal in the ecumenical movement."

The meeting of the WCC and Moscow Patriarchate delegates "represents only a very first beginning," Dr. Visser 't Hooft said, "but we may hope that it is the beginning of a spiritual process which will lead to new spiritual opportunity".

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry of the United States, chairman of the Central Committee, reported on the conversations later in the meeting. A joint statement issued at the close of the Utrecht sessions said that leaders of the World Council would recommend that observers attend meetings of the WCC's Central Committee if the synod of the Moscow Church agrees. The participants said that the meeting had led to a useful exchange of information and to "fuller understanding".

In his annual report, Dr. Visser 't Hooft also looked at the ten years since the World Council was officially set up in Amsterdam, Holland, in August, 1948.

"The setting up of the council," he said, "meant in fact that we chose an ecumenical movement which would not minimise the serious doctrinal issues of unity, but which would seek to work at these issues in the setting of the common calling of the churches to humanity. Thus the unity we stand for was characterised as a pastoral unity - a unity, not merely for the sake of the Church, but for the sake of mankind."

The central purpose of the council, Dr. Visser 't Hooft said, is "increasingly to manifest the essential unity of the Church" but, he added, "we do not look upon the council as a final solution of the problem of inter-church relations".

Since 1948 twenty-three churches have joined the council, bringing the membership to 170. But Dr. Visser 't Hooft said that "we should be even happier when we find that two or more member churches become united so that the number decreases. That is not happening as frequently as it ought. We have only four such cases on record during the period."

One aspect of the World Council which has not changed since 1948, the general secretary said, "is that we are alternatively or even at the same time accused of being subservient to the policies and ideologies of the Western powers and of opening the doors for the influence of Communist ideas".

The real danger of the situation, he went on, is that "it could tempt us to think that we are steering the safe, middle course. It is so easy to reply to one set of critics by quoting the opposite set of critics. But this kind of alibi is not quite worthy of the Christian Church which does not believe in the principle of safety by maintaining equal distance from extremes, or in spiritual neutralism, but feels called to warn all powers of the will and judgment of God. The World Council, like the churches, must be independent - in the world, but not of the world - being accountable ultimately only to God."

E.P.S., Geneva

WCC Tenth Anniversary Celebrated

(Odense, Denmark) - The tenth anniversary of the World Council of Churches was observed in a solemn service in the Cathedral of Odense, Denmark, August 24, when two veteran ecumenical leaders stressed humility, gratitude to God and renewed dedication to the cause of Christian unity.

Speakers were the Rt. Rev. George K.A. Bell, Church of England, 75-year-old honorary president, and Bishop Otto Dibelius, Berlin-Brandenburg, 78-year-old president.

Bishop Bell said: "It was the impulse of dynamic faith that led to the formation of the World Council of Churches. It was a great spiritual event that happened

at Amsterdam by the blessing of God...And at the very moment that we offer him thanks, the only thing that we can say is this, 'We are unprofitable servants, we have done that which was our duty to do'."

Repeating the words he used in the closing service of worship at the First Assembly of the World Council in Amsterdam, Bishop Dibelius said, "The Holy Ghost was there." In thinking back across the first ten years of the World Council's life, "I can only say the same five words".

Bishop Dibelius said that "in the course of these ten years churches who formerly only knew of each other from hearsay have become friends. They have learned that they belong together because they belong to the same Lord Jesus Christ. We do not know how it will go on, but what has happened until now has happened in the Spirit of Jesus Christ - in spite of the mistakes we have made. He has interceded in our weakness. The Holy Ghost was there."

Bishop Bell said that "nothing less than the abolition of war itself must be the aim of the nations and their governments and in making that their aim they can surely rely on the help of all Christian churches, especially through the preaching of the Gospel and through prayer...The WCC constitutes a force making for justice and peace by its very existence, including member churches from countries in which governments of the most opposite character exercise authority, and by its witness to the truth that God is sovereign over all earthly sovereigns, and that every government is responsible to him."

"The world today is more restless than it was ten years ago. There are dangers everywhere. There is no real peace," Bishop Dibelius said. "We cannot change the world. Also the churches cannot do this. But they can call out into this world of egotism and discord the word of God urging for peace and justice and truth."

"This we have tried to do for ten years. Not only each church individually, but all of us together. Of course we should have done it louder, more courageously, more impressively. But more than once the spirit of God has helped us in our weakness. More than once the world has heard what we have said through the Gospel. The Holy Ghost was there!" Bishop Dibelius said.

The Anglican bishop stressed that the World Council is not a world church but must receive its strength and vitality not from a central organisation but from the rank and file of members of churches in their own lands. He called for a reproduction of ecumenical spirit, worship, and activity in every town and village.

Bishop Bell said that he hoped "we shall not forget the necessity of working for such a visible unity of the whole Church of Christ as will not embrace only the Eastern Orthodox Church and other ancient churches, but also the Church of Rome. I am not now speaking of additions to the member churches but of the visible unity of the whole Church."

Bishop Bell called for support of the visible unity of the Church "by the spiritual witness of dedicated Christian lives."

"This is no call for cloistered living or escape to an ivory tower but rather the reverse." He asked for a deeper involvement of all our congregations in the World Council's work, in local ecumenical action and worship and "a more earnest effort after personal holiness so that men may see in our very being that God lives."

E.P.S., Geneva

WCC Seeks \$2,500,000 for New Headquarters

(Nyborg, Denmark) - A plan to build a new \$2,500,000 headquarters for the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, was approved by the Council's Central Committee meeting in Nyborg, Denmark, on August 25.

The Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, New York, a president of the World Council of Churches, will serve as chairman of an international committee to raise the necessary funds for the new buildings.

Bishop Sherrill will retire as presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, USA, on November 15. He continues as chairman of the US Conference of member churches of the World Council of Churches. His term as one of the council's six presidents extends until the next assembly of the WCC in December, 1961.

According to the report adopted by the Committee, the architect's final plans would be presented to the 1959 meeting of the policy making body on the island of Rhodes, Greece.

Providing that progress in fund-raising is satisfactory, the construction of the new headquarters property will be started in the autumn of 1959, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, chairman of the finance committee, said.

Present plans call for construction of a 236-room initial unit on a site near the United Nations and other international centres in Geneva, to be completed by the end of 1961.

At present the Council is located in a chalet, wooden barracks and rented houses in a residential section of the city. Located on the same property are the headquarters of the Lutheran World Federation, the World Presbyterian Alliance and the European office of the Brethren Service Commission.

Spokesmen for the two world confessional alliances said that the LWF and World Presbyterian Alliance would be tenants in the new headquarters.

Architects for the new headquarters are Otto Senn of Basel and Otto Bartning of Germany. Henri Leseman of Geneva is executing architect.

Contemporary in style, the new headquarters will include a chapel, which is expected to serve not only the WCC but also the international community in Geneva. A new congress hall will be built by the city near the proposed WCC site.

Of the funds needed, responsibility for raising \$300,000 has been accepted by the council's member churches and the remainder is expected to be contributed by foundations and individuals in countries where the 170 churches are located.

Bishop Sherrill emphasised that the drive for funds would be more than a campaign to raise money. It would be used as an opportunity to inform the council's constituency about the purpose and work of the council.

Already \$90,000 is in hand from member churches. Preliminary discussion of plans for the building were begun at the Central Committee in Davos, Switzerland, in 1955.

E.P.S., Geneva

Committee Hears Study Report on Prevention of War

(Nyborg) - A controversial report looking at the Christian responsibility in the prevention of war was presented by the World Council of Churches Study Division to the Central Committee of the WCC on August 23.

Prepared by a 14-member commission of theologians, scientists and military men, the "theological discussion" recognises that "there is no limit to the power of the explosions which are possible", and calls for a limit to "be set by a decision of mind and will".

The document was prepared by a commission appointed in 1955 and headed by Sir Thomas Taylor of the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, and was presented to the committee by Dr. C. L. Patijn, a member of Parliament in the Netherlands, and Pro-

fessor C. F. von Weizsäcker of the University of Hamburg. The paper was described as a "study document". "It is not meant to be a statement of policy, but an attempt to understand some of the moral implications of the atomic age and to present some Christian considerations for fuller discussion," Dr. Patijn said.

The paper calls for the "discipline of possessing nuclear armaments but of not using them in all out war". That discipline, it says, must grow out of a second and broader one "capable of using armaments whether conventional or nuclear, if at all, in a radically limited way only".

Because Christians cannot accept the justification of limited war, the commission says that its purpose is "to limit war as a first step in getting rid of it". If all out war does occur, the statement says, "Christians should urge a cease fire, if necessary on the enemy's terms, and resort to non-violent resistance".

Hydrogren bombs are termed "deterrents only", and the commission makes a plea for that "discipline which is determined to use the possession" of the weapons "only in a discriminating way. We are all agreed in the declaration of the principle that at least it is not permissible to use them before the other party has used them, or to take any advantage from their possession, except to deter other parties from using them."

Four members of the commission expressed reservations, saying that it was not "permissible to sanction or support the use in any circumstances of the H-bomb, the terrible nature of which is recognised by all of us". The four members, two of them pacifists, said that the "use of the H-bomb constitutes an atrocity not to be justified in a belligerent even if the enemy is guilty of it, and not allowable on any ground of reprisal or retaliation, actual or threatened".

In presenting it to the committee, Dr. von Weizsäcker, once one of Germany's leading atomic scientists and now a professor of philosophy at the University of Hamburg, told the committee that it is difficult for Christians to discuss a limited war, but for technological reasons it is not practical to think that all out atomic disarmament will be achieved. "We can't take the view that disarmament will come and therefore we don't need to discuss the matter," he added.

But even though the idea of limited war is difficult for Christians, it is a fact in the world today, he said, "and if we want to discuss practical ways Christians can act, we must consider limited war". He pointed out that in "limited wars" since the end of World War II, no atomic weapons have been used.

In discussion following the presentation, the document was criticised in a critique prepared by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a joint agency of the WCC and the International Missionary Council. The critique said that the CCIA questioned whether or not the document was really a theological discussion; called for more consideration of the nature of the main political conflict of today; questioned the suggestions in the document that in certain circumstances surrender on the enemy's terms should be prepared and that a nation is not permitted to be the first to use a megaton weapon.

During the discussion, Professor W. S. Tindal, Church of Scotland, pointed up the great dilemma of "those of us who cannot accept the complete pacifist way or the military way - can we take another way?" The study document, he said, represents a way between the two views.

Dr. Hendrikus Berkhof of the Netherlands and Dr. V. Niesel, Reformed, Germany, criticised the report for failing to make clear what theology had to do with the technological, political and military problems raised by the coming of the H-bomb. The Central Committee was urged to enlarge the membership of the commission and try to speak more "theologically" to the great nations about their responsibilities and problems.

The study commission requested the Central Committee to authorise it to use the document as a starting point for further discussion, "with a view to receiving comments", and to authorise the council's Division of Studies and the CCIA to propose further plans for continuing the study to the WCC Executive Committee. Action on the document was scheduled to be taken on August 28. E.P.S., Geneva

Integration Plan of IMC-WCC Questioned

(Nyborg) - Hesitancies about the plan for uniting the World Council of Churches and its sister organisation, the International Missionary Council, into a single body were expressed by several members of the Central Committee during sessions on August 23.

A report from the Joint Committee of the two world bodies, presented by Dr. Henry Pitney Van Dusen, president of Union Theological Seminary and the joint committee's chairman, detailed some of the projected procedures for the union. It will take place in 1961 if the majority of the member units of the two councils give approval. So far responses from the World Council member churches have been strongly in favour of the union. The International Missionary Council approved the plan "in principle" at its assembly in Ghana in December 1957, and the member councils are being polled.

The Rev. Charles Westphal, Paris, French Reformed Church, explained that his church had not yet voted on the question. He said that the coming together of the IMC and the WCC might make it difficult to continue the cooperation which now exists in interdenominational agencies in France and the mission territories.

Pastor Westphal observed that the move to unite the agencies dealing with mission and unity might also "appear to our Orthodox and Roman Catholic brethren as a Protestant bloc against their traditions". But he said that these hesitancies felt in France are not "decisive and final" and he hoped for a positive vote on the integrated body.

The Orthodox position was presented by another member of the Central Committee, Metropolitan James of Melita. Metropolitan James is the representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at the World Council of Churches headquarters in Geneva.

Metropolitan James said that "we Orthodox participate in the World Council because it is a council of churches".

"We find it difficult from our point of view to accept that the unity of the Church can be furthered by antagonistic missionary activity," he said. "We have already registered our position on this important point. We believe that the unity grows as the churches learn to love each other and march hand-in-hand towards the unifying Cross of the Lord."

Metropolitan James said that the changes expressed in the plan presented were "so far reaching and radical" that "it makes the position of the Orthodox Church more difficult and its hesitations stronger". E.P.S., Geneva

Inter-Church Aid Report for 1958

(Nyborg) - The record of material, financial and spiritual aid given in the past year to millions in need by members of the 170 world church bodies making up the World Council of Churches was presented during sessions of the Central Committee.

In its annual report to the WCC Central Committee, the council's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees reviewed its programmes of aid and on-going services to refugees, displaced persons and disaster victims in the world.

Dr. Leslie E. Cooke, director of the division, outlined to the committee five points that the churches have learned in the ten years since the beginning of the World Council. Some churches, he said, have needed this help "for survival". "We have also learned that when physical material needs are met, something is done for spiritual renewal, in certain countries service of this kind is the only way in which a Christian witness is possible, and when a church stretches out its hand to another, something happens to further the cause of understanding and unity."

But, Dr. Cooke pointed out, "above all we have come to see that these ministries are not only a preparation for the Gospel, as a corroboration of its proclamations. It is of the Gospel itself, underlying it and integral to the life of the Church".

Typical of the churches' concern, the report said, is the emphasis on the individual rather than the money and relief supplies which the churches have provided to those in need. Contributed funds are still insufficient to cope with the total need, however.

Concerning the Hungarian refugees, the report declares: "There will have to be some reduction in refugee services in 1959 as the special funds raised for them are almost exhausted."

This programme was the major emergency of the past year as well as the previous one. Despite financial and other handicaps, the report shows that 28,146 refugees were resettled in 1957, bringing to more than 100,000 the total number moved to new homelands in the past six years.

The integration of refugees in countries of first asylum, welfare services - particularly for the sick and aged "hard core" refugees - and programmes of migration to the United States, Australia, Canada, Brazil, the Scandinavian and other countries were highlighted in the Division's report.

Describing this "continuing task", the report also cites the work of the WCC Division, Church World Service, Lutheran World Service, and the Near East Christian Council in their ministry to the 923,000 Arab refugees and 200,000 other claimants in the Middle East border villages now in their tenth year of suffering.

Included, too, is the material aid provided to the more than 700,000 Chinese refugees in Hong Kong and the recent "dramatic evacuation" from that city of 500 Russian Old Believers to a new colony established by the churches in Brazil.

"The emergency in Lebanon," says the report, "has resulted in the formation of a joint committee of voluntary agencies...which has the confidence of all political parties in Lebanon". This committee brings together Roman Catholic and Protestant agencies and mission boards in the area.

E.P.S., Geneva

Rapid Social Change Challenges Churches

(Nyborg) - A progress report on a five-year study undertaken by the World Council of Churches reveals that the churches are finding "great difficulty in responding to the challenge of rapid social change".

The report on "The Common Christian Responsibility Toward Areas of Rapid Social Change" was given at the meeting of the World Council's Central Committee at Nyborg, Denmark, on August 23. The \$175,000 study, initiated in 1955 with a grant of \$100,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has been underway in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It will be completed in 1960 with the publication of two books to be written by Dr. Egbert de Vries, rector of the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Holland, and the Rev. Paul Abrecht, executive secretary of the WCC's Department of Church and Society.

An International Conference on Rapid Social Change is planned for Greece in July, 1959. It will deal with Christian response to the challenge.

Observations on the first three years of study emphasised that the Church cannot be a spectator of social change. "It must work for 'responsible emancipation'."

Purpose of the study is to help the member churches of the World Council to come to grips with "the extraordinary developments of society in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and with their implications for the West".

The main fields of study and action are responsible citizenship, village and rural life, problems of urbanisation and the impact of foreign enterprise and technical assistance.

Although there is practical evidence of concern on the part of the churches which have engaged in the study of social change, many for the first time, the report says "we cannot be sanguine about the contribution of the churches".

"Churches, like most social institutions, tend to be conservative in relation to change. Often they have been invaded and overwhelmed by the change before they act."

The 74-page document prepared by the Department of Church and Society says that it is only after they are challenged by the "fiery stream of revolution" that the churches are willing "to leave behind the stagnant backwaters of reaction".

"It is our experience in the study that very frequently churches are galvanized into action by the realisation that their youth are leaving the Church, sometimes because they find it irrelevant, sometimes attracted by secular ideologies."

The study process itself, which has brought together theologians, social scientists and others in a score of countries, has provided opportunity for groups within the church, "especially youth and women", to voice dissatisfaction with its incapacity to meet the impact of change upon their lives.

Reporting to the Central Committee on the study were Dr. de Vries, chairman of the Department of Church and Society, Mr. M. M. Thomas, Trivandrum India, Asia consultant for the study, and Professor K. A. Busia, Department of Sociology, University College, Ghana, consultant for Ghana.

According to the report, the study has brought the World Council of Churches to a realisation of its neglect of Asian, African, and Latin American problems in the past and the western bias evident in its thinking on social problems.

Despite acknowledgment of the churches' failures in meeting the problems of the world, the committee said "unexpected resources had been discovered in the churches".

Major study projects have been organised in 12 countries: Brazil, Camerouns, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Northern Rhodesia, and the Union of South Africa. Churches in Europe, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand have also organised study programmes.

Among the results in action reported is the development of a lay training centre in the Copperbelt of Northern Rhodesia. In South India, a Christian project for technical and economic assistance to Indian villages has been launched.

In answer to the question "what is the purpose of such a study by the World Council and how does it differ from a United Nations study of the same social problem?" the study says that the Church can go beyond the limitations laid "upon both the social scientist and the political body".

"It has a view of the nature of man by which it can interpret the technical information and analyse social situations from the standpoint of their effect on human welfare and human dignity."

E.P.S., Geneva

CCIA Issues Middle East Statement

(Nyborg) - A statement calling for United Nations action "to ensure the territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon and Jordan" was issued by the Executive Committee of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs at the close of its sessions in Nyborg, Denmark.

The 14-member committee suggested the establishment and training of an observation group and a UN force as standing agencies to assist in a peaceful settlement of disputes and in guaranteeing peace.

The six-point statement also called for the setting up of a regional economic development agency; for "firm recognition" of the right of people in the area freely to choose their own government and "to order their relations with their Arab neighbours without coercion"; for security commitments to the Arab states and to Israel to protect each one from aggression by the other; and for a "fresh attempt by the UN" to solve the "tragic problem" of the Arab refugees.

The committee said it did not minimize "the difficulties to be encountered in meeting the apparent requirements we have cited, but not the least of our contribution to international action, which must of necessity be long and sustained, will lie in our sympathetic understanding of fellow human beings and our readiness to seize opportunities for Christian service and works of reconciliation." E.P.S., Geneva

CWS Makes Gift to WCC Honouring Brethren

(Nyborg) - The Church of the Brethren, celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, was honoured "for its distinctive contribution" by a gift of \$10,000, made by Church World Service to the World Council of Churches as an expression of "thanks and affection". The presentation was made during sessions of the Central Committee.

The gift, which will be used toward the cost of the proposed new WCC headquarters building in Geneva, is a memorial to Mrs. M. R. Zigler, wife of the Brethren Service Commission representative in Europe, who was killed in a car crash in Sweden on August 16, and the 22 members of the Church of the Brethren who died in the KLM crash on August 14 (see EPS No. 32).

Church World Service, the relief arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, made the presentation on August 22, when Moderator Desmond Bittinger of the Brethren church was welcomed by the Central Committee. The Church of the Brethren had marked its 250th anniversary with special meetings in Kassel and Schwarzenau, Germany, on August 2-7.

The presentation, which was made by Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Central Committee chairman, said that "we are richly grateful for the graceful and practical spirit with which across the years the members of this church have borne their witness to the loving-kindness of the Lord and so helped us all to participate more usefully and fully in our service to human need...Our expression of thanks and affection to our colleagues has been sharply stimulated by the recent tragic deaths...Our wish is that this contribution should be regarded both as a memorial to the persons who have been killed and a tangible expression of our affection and gratitude toward the Church of the Brethren for its witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ across the years."

E.P.S., Geneva

Four Dead in Work Camp Tragedy

(Völkingen) - Twenty members of the Völkingen (Saar) ecumenical work camp, injured in a bus crash on August 15, are still hospitalised but reported to be off the critical list. The accident took the lives of four persons - two campers, the bus driver's four-year-old son, and the cook at the camp.

The accident took place near Mettlach, Germany, when a new bus, carrying 29 campers on a day's excursion, went out of control on a steep hill and rolled 180 feet to the road below. Dead are James McGaffin of the United States and Ursula Schneider of Germany, work campers, Michael Ebeling, the driver's son, and Katherin Thiel, cook, both of Germany.

The camp was one of forty being held in 25 countries this summer, sponsored by the World Council of Churches' Youth Department. More than a thousand young people are taking part in the ecumenical work camp programme.

When news of the accident was received, three WCC staff members went to Völkingen to handle the notifications of the families of the victims, to provide pastoral care for the injured and to do what they could to help the victims and their families. The staff members are the Rev. Philip Potter, executive secretary of the Youth Department, the Rev. Ralph Weltge, the secretary for work camps, and Miss Ruth Padrun of the Youth Department office.

Seven campers have been discharged from the hospital but have decided to stay at the camp to help their fellow-campers.

WCC officials said that all campers are insured and that the council will provide funds for all other essentials, including air travel to the campers' home countries.

The Executive Committee of the World Council, meeting in Nyborg, Denmark, from August 19 to 21, sent a cable to Völkingen expressing their "deepest sympathy with the injured and with the families of those who have been killed". E.P.S., Geneva

Church Broadcasters Plan for Asia

(Tokyo) - Strategy for the Christian use of mass media in East Asia was discussed at the second Southeast Asia Conference on the subject at the beginning of August.

Delegates from thirteen Asian countries agreed that many radio listeners in Asia were not interested in listening to religious programmes only. There is a demand for musical, cultural and information broadcasts.

Two church transmitters, DYSR in the Philippines and HLKY in Korea, have already experimented in "preparing the soil" by "family broadcasts" that aim to introduce a Christian spirit into entertainment and non-religious broadcasting.

The conference favoured pooling world-wide resources on an ecumenical basis to aid in the task.

As a result of the conference a follow-up committee will organise training sessions to experiment with new types of programmes and to study listener reactions. "The Christian Broadcaster", quarterly of the World Committee for Christian Broadcasting, will from now on include a section edited by Asians. E.P.S., Geneva

World Presbyterian Alliance Grows

(Edinburgh) - Three new member churches in Japan, Africa and the United States came into the World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian churches during the meeting of the Alliance's Executive Committee this month in Edinburgh, Scotland. The new members bring to 72 the number on the roll, are the Korean Christian Church in Japan, the Presbyterian Church of the Cameroons, and the Coloured Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The Executive Committee looked beyond the borders of the Alliance family during the Edinburgh meeting, voting to undertake conversations with the International Congregational Council in regard to the common heritage of the two confessional bodies and the methods of closer cooperation. Since a merger has already taken place in North America between the Evangelical and Reformed Church, an Alliance member, and

the Congregational Christian Churches, a member body of the International Congregational Council, the Executive Committee felt such talks were vital. Other similar mergers are being considered in other parts of the world.

The major portion of the meeting time was devoted to plans for the 18th General Council of the World Alliance to be held in August 1959, in Brazil.

A second programme of world-wide interest approved at Edinburgh was a "Reformed and Presbyterian Jubilee, 1959-1960", to mark the series of vital historical anniversaries falling in that period. Besides the General Council and the Brazilian Centennial, the Jubilee will draw the attention of the member churches to the 450th anniversary of Calvin's birth, the 400th of the publication of the definitive edition of the Institutes and the 400th of the founding of Calvin's Academy in Geneva, now the University of Geneva. Major celebrations are being planned in France, where 1959 brings the 400th year since the First General Synod of the French Reformed Church, and in Scotland, where the Church of Scotland will celebrate in 1960 the 400th anniversary of the Reformation under John Knox. The Alliance plans to call its members to participation in a World Day of Prayer and Rededication on May 31, 1959, as a central event in the Jubilee. On June 1, 1959, the newly-restored Calvin Auditorium (Knox Chapel) in Geneva will be dedicated. E.P.S., Geneva

16,000 at Closing Service of Tokyo World Convention

(Tokyo) - More than 16,000 visitors and delegates attended the closing service on August 13 of the fourteenth World Convention on Christian Education in Tokyo. Methodist Bishop Shot K. Mondol of India presided at the service, which was held in the Tokyo Sports Arena. He is the new president of the World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association, sponsor of the conference.

More than 4,000 delegates from 63 countries registered for the week-long meeting, described as one of the largest Christian meetings ever held in Asia. Participants included Christian educators, Sunday school teachers, youth counsellors, ministers and missionaries. E.P.S., Geneva

In Brief

The Southern Diocese of the Hungarian Lutheran Church has decided "to take measures to fix the pension for Bishop Lajos Ordass", according to the Hungarian Church Press. Bishop Ordass was forced to resign his post in June (see EPS No. 26).

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A retreat called by Father Thomas Satory, O.S.B., well-known Roman Catholic ecumenical leader in Germany, has been attended by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. Meeting at the Benedictine "friendship house" at Niederalteich, the 100 participants considered "The Eucharist and the Last Supper" under the leadership of Protestant and Roman Catholic theologians.

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The Lutheran World Federation's Commission on World Mission plans to sponsor erection of a high-powered Christian radio transmitter "somewhere in Africa". Operated "by Africans for Africans" and beamed also to the Near East and India, the proposed station would seek financial support from other missions and churches. The plans will come to the LWF's Executive Committee in October.

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The Roman Catholic Hierarchy in the Netherlands has appointed Monsignor J.G.M. Willebrands, head of the philosophy department of the diocesan seminary of Haarlem, as its special delegate for ecumenical work. The appointment, which involves regular contact with non-Catholics in line with a 1949 instruction of the Holy Office in Rome, is believed to be the first of its kind in the world. Father Willebrands is also secretary of the international Roman Catholic Conference for Ecumenical Questions.

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Dr. M. R. Zigler, European director of the Brethren Service Commission, is reported out of danger after an automobile accident on August 16 near Västerick, Sweden. Mrs. Zigler and two persons in another car involved in the crash were killed (see EPS No. 32).

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Canon Oliver S. Tomkins, warden of Lincoln Theological College, has been named Anglican Bishop of Bristol. Canon Tomkins is a former associate general secretary of the World Council of Churches and is chairman of the WCC's Faith and Order working committee.

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A \$250,000 Evangelical Audio-Visual Centre (CAVE) has been dedicated in Campinas Brazil. The centre is supported by 21 Protestant church groups in Brazil and the United States.

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"Growing Together Locally", a booklet containing "some suggestions on how the ecumenical movement can be made a reality wherever Christians of different traditions are found together", has just been issued by the British Council of Churches.

E.P.S., Geneva